



Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Rebecca Childers Caleel

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

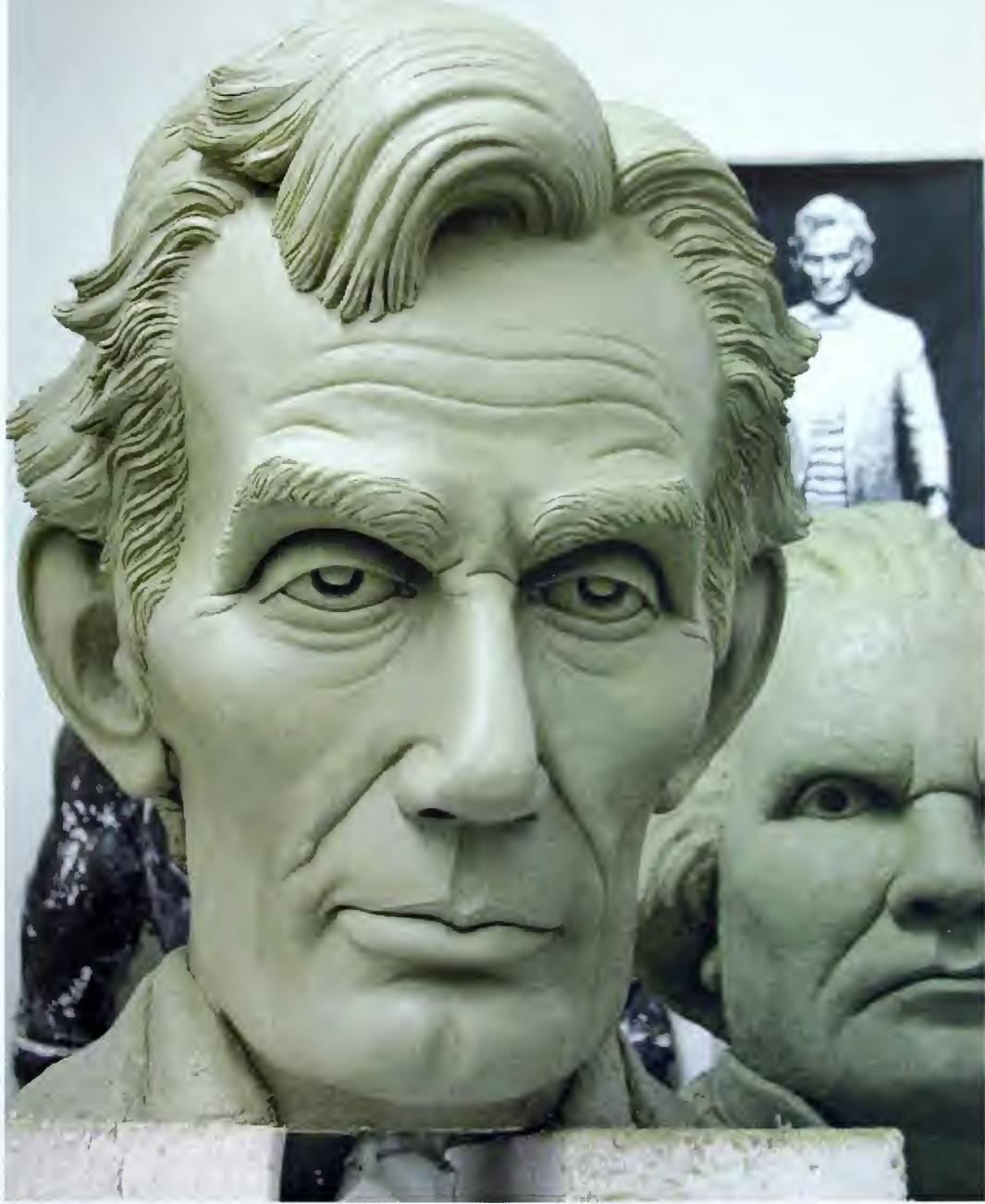


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FROM THE DESK OF WAYNE TEMPLE

Since the Fall of 1949, my special field of research has been Abraham Lincoln. It is my humble opinion that Lincoln is the very most difficult figure to sculpture or paint. Of all the attempts, perhaps one could number the successful ones of the fingers of one hand. Among that number should certainly be listed Thomas Dow Jones who actually sculpted Lincoln from life in Springfield and Leonard Wells Volk who had the privilege of not only knowing Abraham Lincoln but also of making a life mask of him as well as casts of both his hands.

Now, Ms. Rebecca Childers Caleel has minutely studied primary evidence (such as life masks and hands and photographs from life) in order to sculpt Abraham Lincoln. With her God-given talent combined with her artistic training, she has succeeded beautifully where most others have failed to capture the true figure of Abraham Lincoln. Her statue of Lincoln is extremely life-like and should be rated as one of the very best ever executed. In my opinion, it has few equals as to his face, etc. She has made the "bronze" come alive, and Lincoln speaks to us with mind and hand gestures, too. What a sculpture she has wrought! She has even studied pictures of Lincoln's actual suit, too.

Nor should it be forgotten that she has also captured Stephen A. Douglas equally well. One can see his attitude toward Lincoln and the topic of the debates in Ottawa. His face and hands tell the story completely. I congratulate Ms. Caleel for her mastery of her subjects! She has told the story of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates in bronze figures which will stand the scrutiny of fellow artists, historians and the test of time.

Wayne G. Temple, Ph.D., F.R.S.A.



Lincoln-Douglas Memorial
300 W. Joliet St.
Ottawa, IL 61350

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This is your opportunity to "make history".

In 1858, Abraham Lincoln took the stage in downtown Ottawa, Illinois to debate Stephen Douglas in a race for the U.S. Senate. That historic debate was the first in the famous series of debates between Lincoln and Douglas. The debates centered on the issue of slavery and set the stage for the ascendancy of Lincoln to the presidency.

The City of Ottawa Historic Preservation Commission has initiated a project that will forever memorialize this historic site and commemorate Lincoln's life and the end of slavery in our nation. Heroic-sized bronze statues of both Lincoln and Douglas will be erected in a plaza setting complete with a reflecting pond, limestone pedestal, and landscaping. This ambitious project will result in a world-class memorial.

We need your help to make this salute to Lincoln a reality. The cost of the statues and plaza will be approximately \$750,000. The State of Illinois, County of LaSalle, and City of Ottawa have all contributed toward the project. However, the vast majority of the funding must come from private donations. We invite you to partner with the City of Ottawa in this very important project.

The Historic Preservation Commission has designed several incentive programs and premiums to offer in return for your contribution. Based on your donation, your name could stand in the plaza with the statues for generations. You may even choose to receive a limited edition print or bronze casting that will be a treasured possession.

Please take a moment to review the enclosed brochure and contribution forms. Should any questions be left unanswered, feel free to contact: Ottawa Mayor Robert Eschbach (815)433-0161 or Director of Fundraising, Harold Clemens (815) 431-1000.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate any assistance you can provide in this "monumental" project.

Very truly yours,

Robert M. Eschbach
Mayor

Very truly yours,

Patty Godfrey
Chairperson, Historic Preservation Commission

Every Contribution Helps

We realize that not everyone can contribute \$1,000 or more to the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial. Smaller contributions are just as valuable and greatly appreciated.



If you contribute \$100 or more, you will receive a window sticker to display in your car, home, or business. This sticker will show all of Ottawa that you helped make the Debate Memorial a reality. It's a static cling sticker so you can remove and replace it as often as you like.



Contribute \$250 or more and receive the static sticker and a commemorative Lincoln-Douglas Debate Coin. These limited edition coins will only be given only to those who contribute at this level, so they will be extremely collectable and valuable.

Thank You For Your Contribution!

To contribute, simply fill out this form & return it with your check, money order, or credit card information.

Contribution Level:

- \$100 *To receive the static sticker.*
- \$250 *To receive the static sticker & 1 commemorative coin.*
- \$500 *To receive the static sticker & 2 commemorative coins.*
- \$750 *To receive the static sticker & 3 commemorative coins.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Payment Method:

- Payment enclosed Bill my credit or debit card one lump sum
- Bill my credit or debit card 4 equal amounts monthly

Credit card information: Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

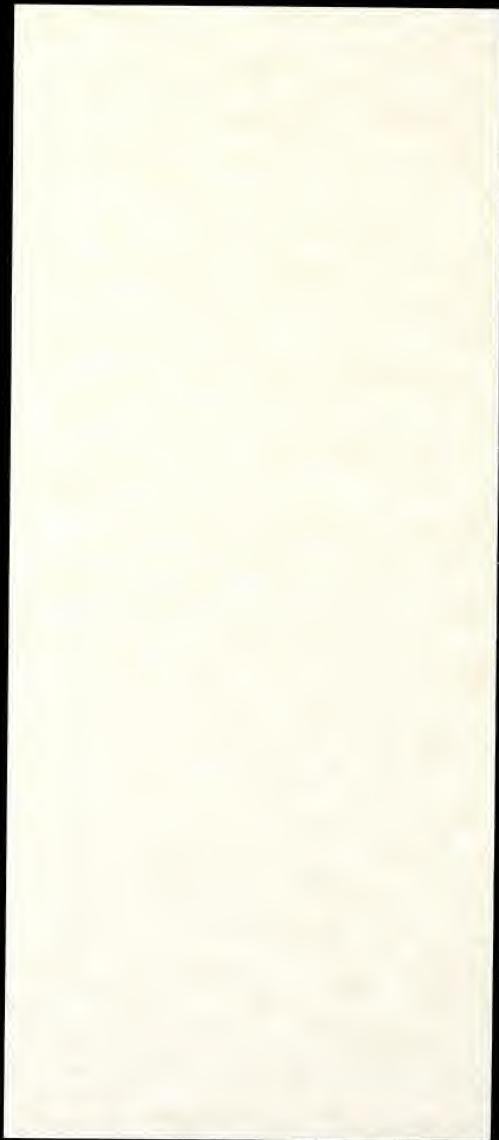
Card #: _____ Expiration date: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature authorizing charges: _____

Send completed form to: Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial Fund

City of Ottawa, 301 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350



Commemorating **LINCOLN**



*Project description of the
Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Memorial to be erected in
Ottawa's Washington Square.*

ne of Illinois' most historically significant locations is Washington Square in Downtown Ottawa, site of the first Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858. Ottawa's Historic Preservation Commission has initiated a project that will forever commemorate the debate and one of our most important presidents, Abraham Lincoln.

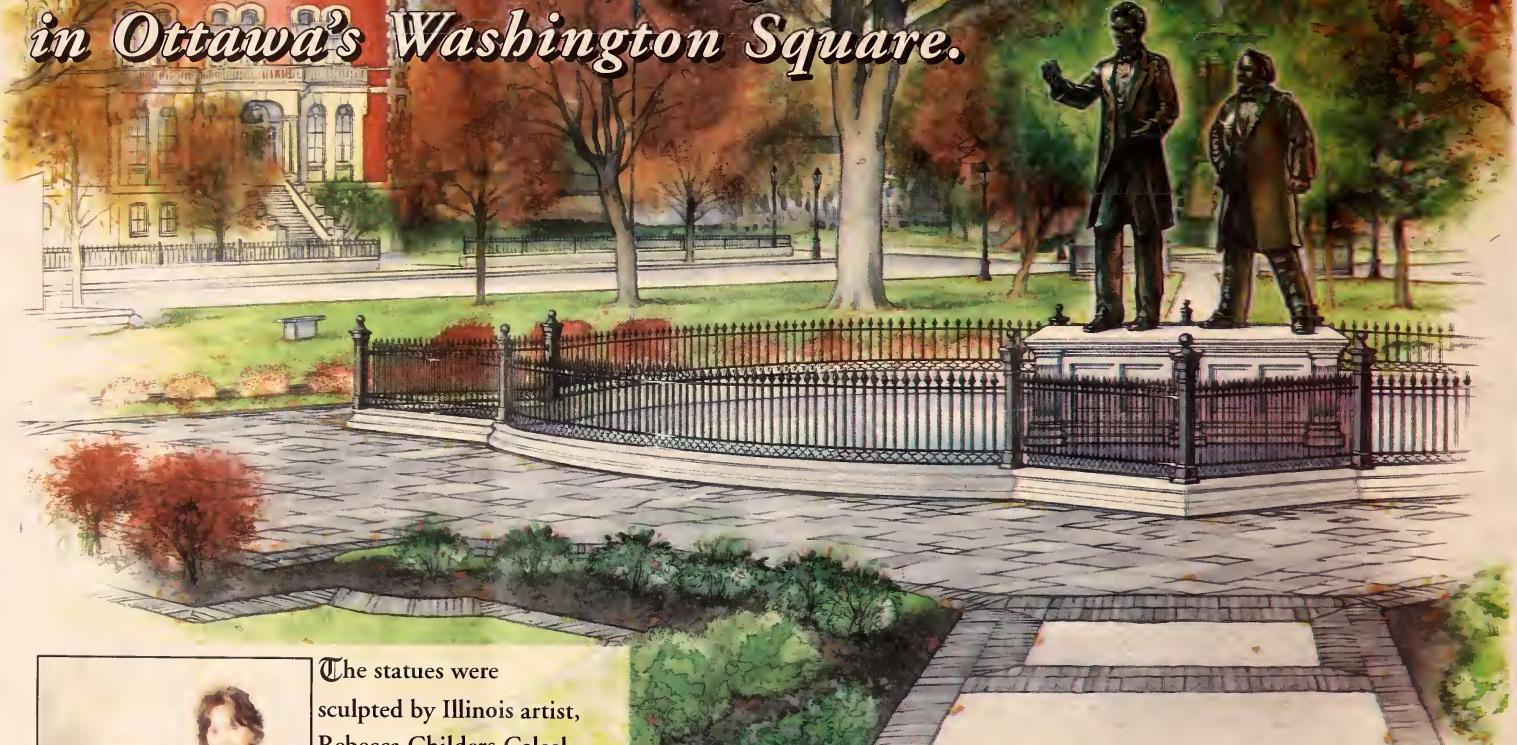
eroic-sized bronze statues of both Lincoln and Douglas are now in the process of creation. The City has retained sculptress Rebecca Childers-Caleel. Her works, although still in progress, have received rave reviews. For instance, Dr. Wayne Temple, Ph.D., Lincoln Scholar, stated, "with her God-given talent combined with her artistic training, Rebecca Childers-Caleel has succeeded beautifully where most others have failed to capture the true figure of Abraham Lincoln. Her statue of Lincoln is extremely lifelike and should be rated as one of the very best ever executed. In my opinion, it has few equals as to his face, etc. She has made the "bronze" come alive, and Lincoln speaks to us with mind and hand gestures. What a sculpture she has wrought!"

he statues will be erected in a plaza setting in the center of Washington Square. The plaza will include a reflecting pond, outlined in limestone. The design of the plaza will be both dignified and functional.

nce completed, the Washington Square Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial will attract people from all over the country. Teachers and parents will bring their children to see the statues and visit the nearby Ottawa Visitor's Center which will have interpretive displays regarding the lives and times of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas, and the importance of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in our country's history.

his ambitious project will serve as a lasting testimonial to the Lincoln - Douglas Debate, which focused our national attention on the issue of slavery and set the stage for the ascendancy of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency. All of us will benefit greatly from its presence. You can help make this project a reality. Your contribution to the Lincoln-Douglas Memorial will ensure that future generations appreciate the importance of the debate and the Lincoln Legacy.

The Future Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial in Ottawa's Washington Square.



The statues were sculpted by Illinois artist, Rebecca Childers-Caleel. Lincoln Scholar, Dr. Wayne C. Temple, Ph.D., said of Caleel's work, "Every detail is so lifelike. You have produced a masterpiece. I have never seen a finer statue of Lincoln."

The statues are being cast by Art Casting of Illinois. This company is known for the outstanding quality of its work, and has cast world class bronzes such as the Michael Jordan statue at the United Center in Chicago, as well as the statue of Mao Tse Tung in Beijing.



WWW.YEAROFLINCOLN.COM

For More Information
on how you can contribute to
The Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial
Contact

The City Of Ottawa
301 W. Madison St.
Ottawa, IL 61350

or

Year of Lincoln Management Company:
ADventure Advertising & Printing
Harold Clemens or Sally Rutledge-Ott
300 W. Joliet St., Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 431-1000 fax (815) 431-1006
E-mail: hclem@adventure3.com

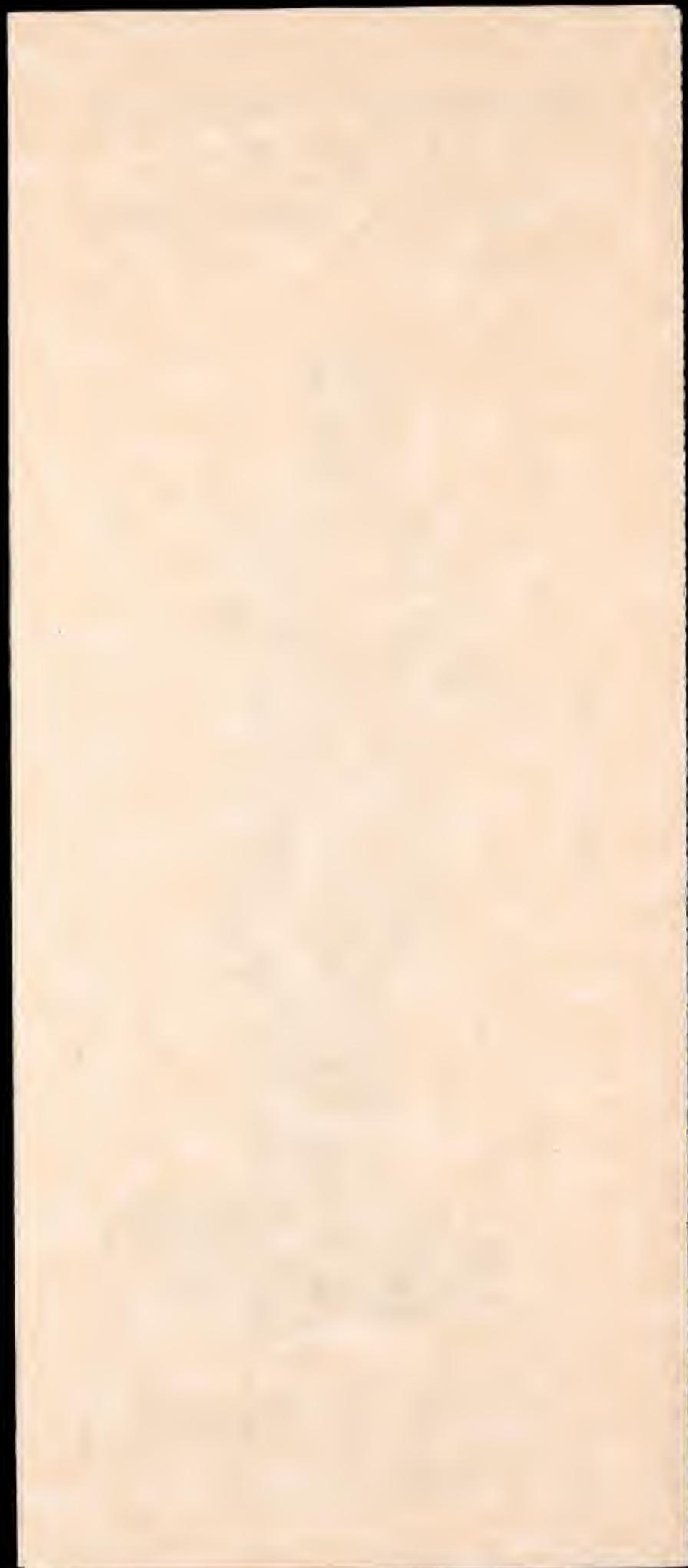
Ottawa Historic Preservation Commission

Ottawa Mayor Robert M. Eschbach
Chairperson, Patty Godfrey
Lupe O'Leary • Margaret Martyn
Joyce Lyons • Mike Weygand
Carl Herren • Keith Johnson

LINCOLN - DOUGLAS
DEBATE
MEMORIAL FUND



CONTRIBUTION
PROGRAM



Thank You

Hank you for your interest in helping create one of the finest tributes to Abraham Lincoln and our country's rich history. Your contribution will help make the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial a reality.

Lor your contribution of \$1,000 or more, you will be invited to the post-dedication reception on September 14, 2002. In addition, you will receive a signed print of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial lithograph. You can frame this lithograph and display it proudly to be recognized as a contributor to the memorial.



All contributors of \$5,000 or more will be permanently recognized on a contributor's plaque in the Lincoln-Douglas Memorial Plaza. You will also receive one of the following commemorative bronze castings, based on your contribution level. These castings, are made from the original clay models used to create the actual memorial sculptures. Castings will be made individually for each contributor. Therefore, the number produced will be very limited to ensure maximum value.



\$5,000 contribution:

Receive a pair of maquette busts of Lincoln & Douglas cast in bronze. Each bust will be mounted on a granite base.



\$12,500 contribution:

Receive a bronze maquette of the Lincoln statue. The statue is approximately 26" tall and mounted on a granite base.



\$25,000 contribution:

Receive both the Lincoln & Douglas bronze maquette statues mounted on a granite base.

To contribute, please detach the contribution form, fill it out, & return it to:

Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial Fund
City of Ottawa
301 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact the "Year of Lincoln" management company: Adventure Advertising
Phone: (815) 431-1000 Fax: (815) 431-1006
e-mail: hclm@adventure3.com

Contribution Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Recognition name to be used on contributor's plaque in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial Plaza: _____

Contribution Level: \$1,000-\$4,999 \$5,000-\$12,499 \$12,500-\$24,999 \$25,000 or more

Name On Card: _____

Signature Authorizing Charges: _____

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lincoln History Sessions

13-15 September 2002

Ottawa, Illinois

The City of Ottawa will be celebrating its historic connections to the famed Lincoln-Douglas debates (site of the first Great Debate in 1858) by organizing a "Year of Lincoln" in 2002. The events of the year will be capped by the formal dedication of a significant statue group, Lincoln and Douglas at Ottawa, by sculptress Rebecca Childers Caleel. (see www.rebeccasculpts.com for images). Among the events planned for the September 13-15 dedication weekend will be three scholarly events.

● First, there will be a public conference on Friday, 13 September 2002, organized around the conference theme, "Setting the Prairies on Fire: the Great Debates in Perspective." Three scholarly papers will be presented, joined by three peer-level commentaries on the papers. The first speaker to confirm his attendance is Dr. Kenneth Winkle, professor of history at the University of Nebraska. Winkle is the author of The Young Eagle: The Rise of Abraham Lincoln (Taylor, 2001). Also confirming attendance is Dr. Harry V. Jaffa, long-time student of the Great Debates and author of two of the best debate studies [Crisis of the House Divided (Chicago, 1999) and A New Birth of Freedom: Abraham Lincoln and the Coming of the Civil War (Rowman & Littlefield 2000)]. Dr. Jaffa is a Distinguished Fellow of the Claremont Institute in California. The third conference speaker will be Dr. David Zarefsky (Northwestern). Dr. Zarefsky is the author of the fine debate study, Lincoln, Douglas and Slavery: In the Crucible of Public Debate. Commentators will include Professor Kay Carr (Southern Illinois University), Professor Phillip Paludan (Illinois-Springfield) and Professor Bob Bray (Illinois Wesleyan).

An open-floor public question and answer session will follow. The scholarly conference will include the reading of a prize-winning essay, sponsored jointly by the City of Ottawa and the Associated Colleges of Illinois. This essay, along with the three conference papers, may form a special issue of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. The conference will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will be held at the Third District Illinois Appellate Courthouse on Columbus Street in Ottawa.

¶ The conference will be immediately followed with an informal reception at the Ottawa Boat Club. The reception will feature presentations on the development of the new Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois by Kim Bauer and on the creation of the Ottawa statue grouping by Wayne Temple; both speakers are with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency.

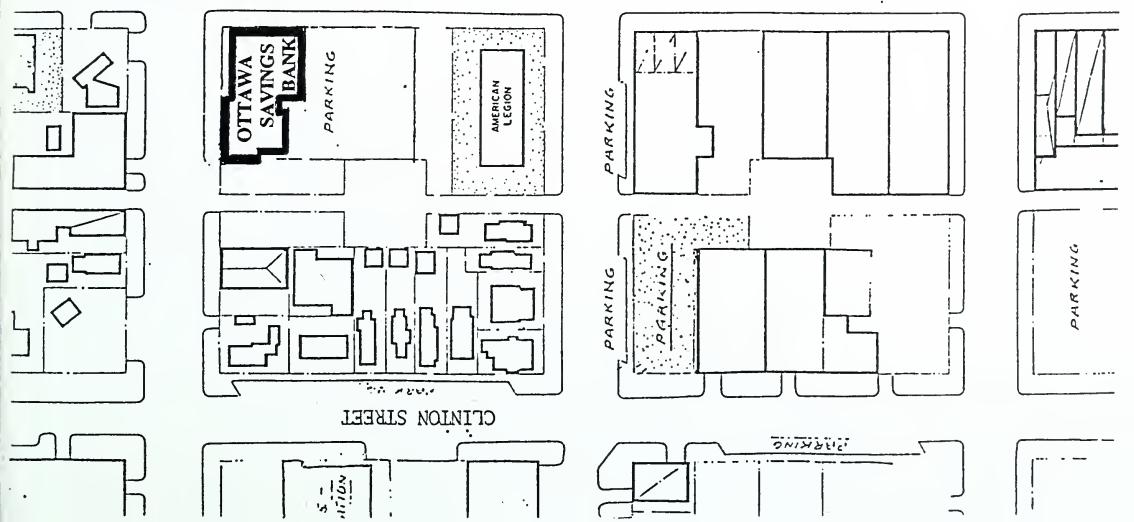
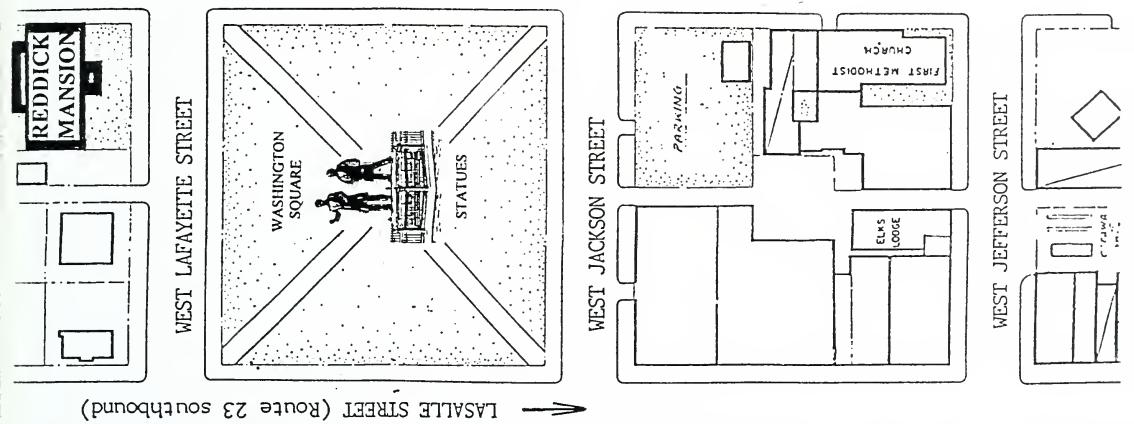
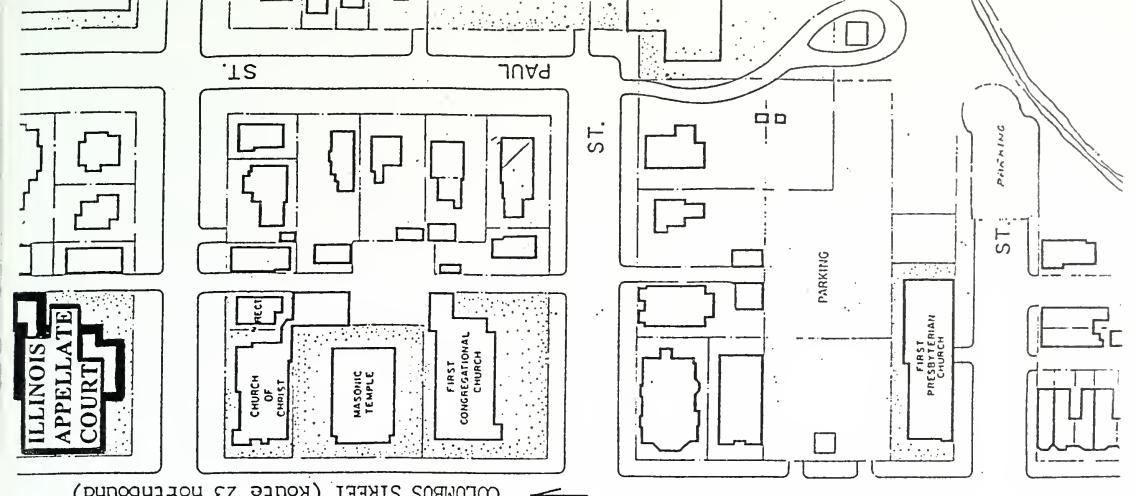
● On Saturday, 14 September 2002, there will be a lecture on Lincoln iconography by Harold Holzer, director of communications at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and author of the book The Lincoln Image: Abraham Lincoln and the Popular Print (University of Illinois Press, 2001) as well as The Lincoln Douglas Debates: The First Complete, Unexpurgated Text. The lecture is free and open to the public, and will follow the dedication of the statue group. This will take place at the historic Reddick Mansion, across the street from the Washington Park debate site.

An engaging speaker, Mr. Holzer is a widely-respected authority on the Lincoln Image. His interest in the Lincoln theme began when he worked with then-New York governor Mario Cuomo on the *Lincoln and Democracy Project* at the time of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

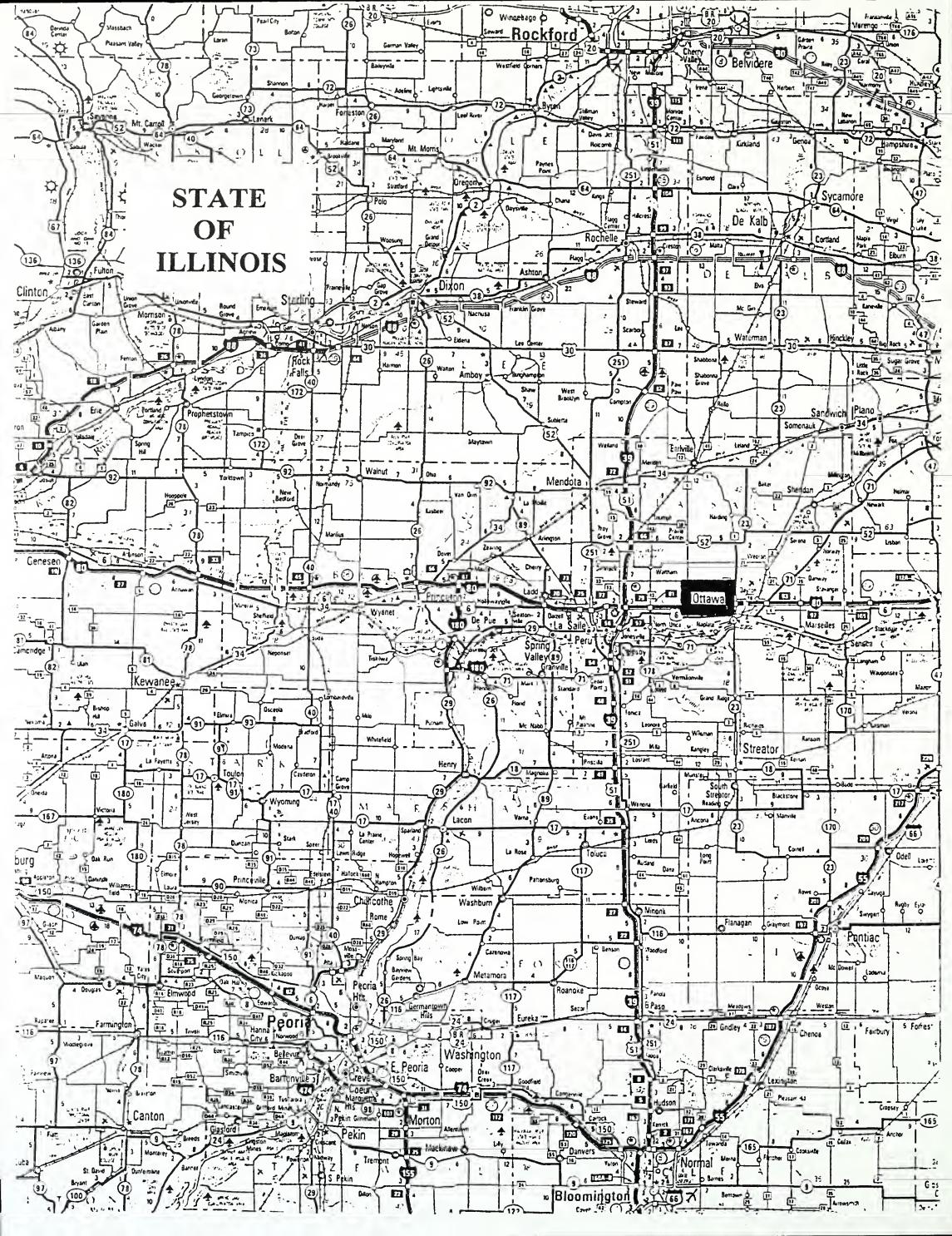
● The third component of the weekend will be a scholars-only event. We will host an invitation-only cook-out and roundtable of Lincoln scholars (including several graduate students) from across Illinois that will focus on current research on the Lincoln theme and the Lincoln era.

Todd Volker, of FirstServePress, Peoria, Illinois, is conference director and manager of the historian activities. He can be reached at (309) 274-3464; siwash85@hotmail.com; and at FirstServePress, P.O. Box 494, Peoria, Illinois 61651.





STATE OF ILLINOIS



YEAR OF LINCOLN CELEBRATION
LINCOLN LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST
417 WEST MADISON STREET
OTTAWA, IL. 61350

April 10, 2002

Dear Look-Alike Contestant:

You are cordially invited to join us in Ottawa, Illinois, as we celebrate the "Year of Lincoln". The unveiling of heroic size statues of Lincoln and Douglas will take place in Washington Square, the home of the first Lincoln and Douglas debate. The celebration will be held on September 13-14, 2002.

The Lincoln Look-Alike Contest will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2002 at 11:30 a.m. on the central stage in Washington Square, downtown Ottawa. Check-in for the contest will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Ottawa Savings Bank (across the street from Washington Square). The contestants will be judged on all traits pertaining to Abraham Lincoln with each contestant being given 2-3 minutes to portray/relate a "Lincoln story or speech". All contestants should be prompt, as the judging will begin at 11:30 a.m. sharp, Saturday, September 14, 2002.

PRIZES

A trophy will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for bearded and unbearded contestants.

Your participation in the "Year of Lincoln" celebration and unveiling of the statues is very important to us; and there will be some special events for you to attend while you visit with us in Ottawa.

Friday, September 13, 2002

6:00 Cocktail Party – Ottawa Boat Club

Saturday, September 14, 2002

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Complimentary breakfast for all Lincoln's appearing in costume. Breakfast to be held at the Ottawa Savings Bank (across from Washington Square).

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Check-in for Look-Alike Contest - Ottawa Savings Bank

11:30 – 12:30 a.m. **Judging of Look-Alike Contest** in Washington Square, Downtown Ottawa



Page 2 (Look-Alike Contest)

2:00 p.m. Lincoln on Art
Harold Hozer, Vice President of Communications,
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City
- Appellate Court Building

3:00 p.m. Unveiling and Dedication of Lincoln - Douglas Statues

Along with the Look-Alike Contest, the Ottawa High School State Championship band will present a concert. Additionally, other historical presentations and area craft persons will be present for the celebration.

A registration form, Judge's Scoring Sheet, and a map of downtown Ottawa are enclosed. Please return the registration form by August 15, 2002. Late entries will be accepted on the day of the contest.

Listed below are various motels. When calling for reservations, please identify yourself as being with the "Lincoln Presenters" for the City of Ottawa.

Comfort Inn	1.800.424.6423
Hampton Inn	1.800.434.6040
Holiday Inn Express	1.800.426.7866
Ottawa Travelodge	1.800.817.7777
Super 8	1.800.434.2888

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please call me at 1-800.456.3753. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Lincoln Look-Alike Contest in Ottawa September 14, 2002!

Sincerely,

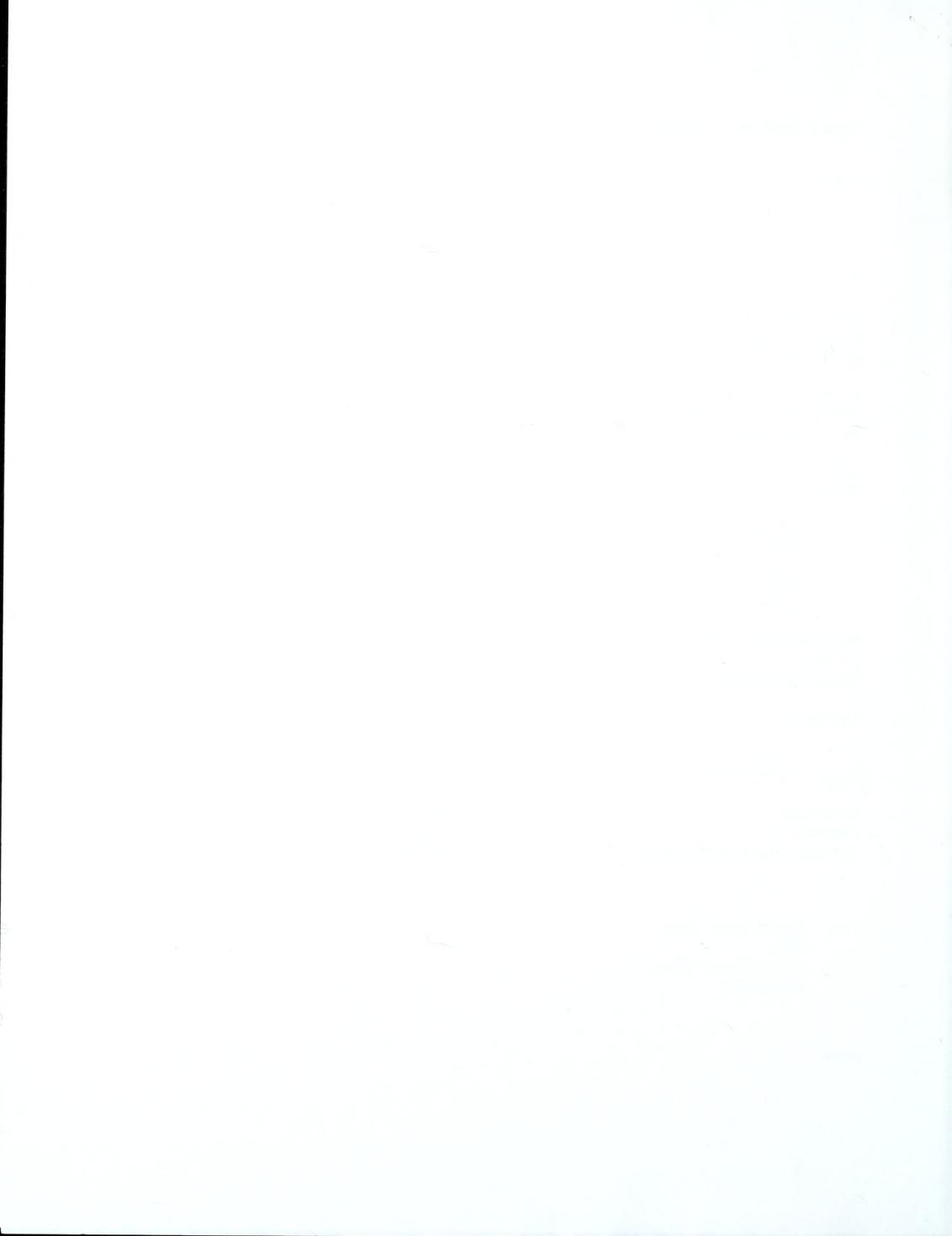


Bill Strong
Chairperson
"Lincoln Look-A-Like Contest"



Lupe O'Leary
Chairperson
"Year of Lincoln"

Enc: Registration Form
Map
Judges Score Sheet
Ottawa (2)



Please return this form to: Bill Strong, 417 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350



LINCOLN LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST

REGISTRATION FORM

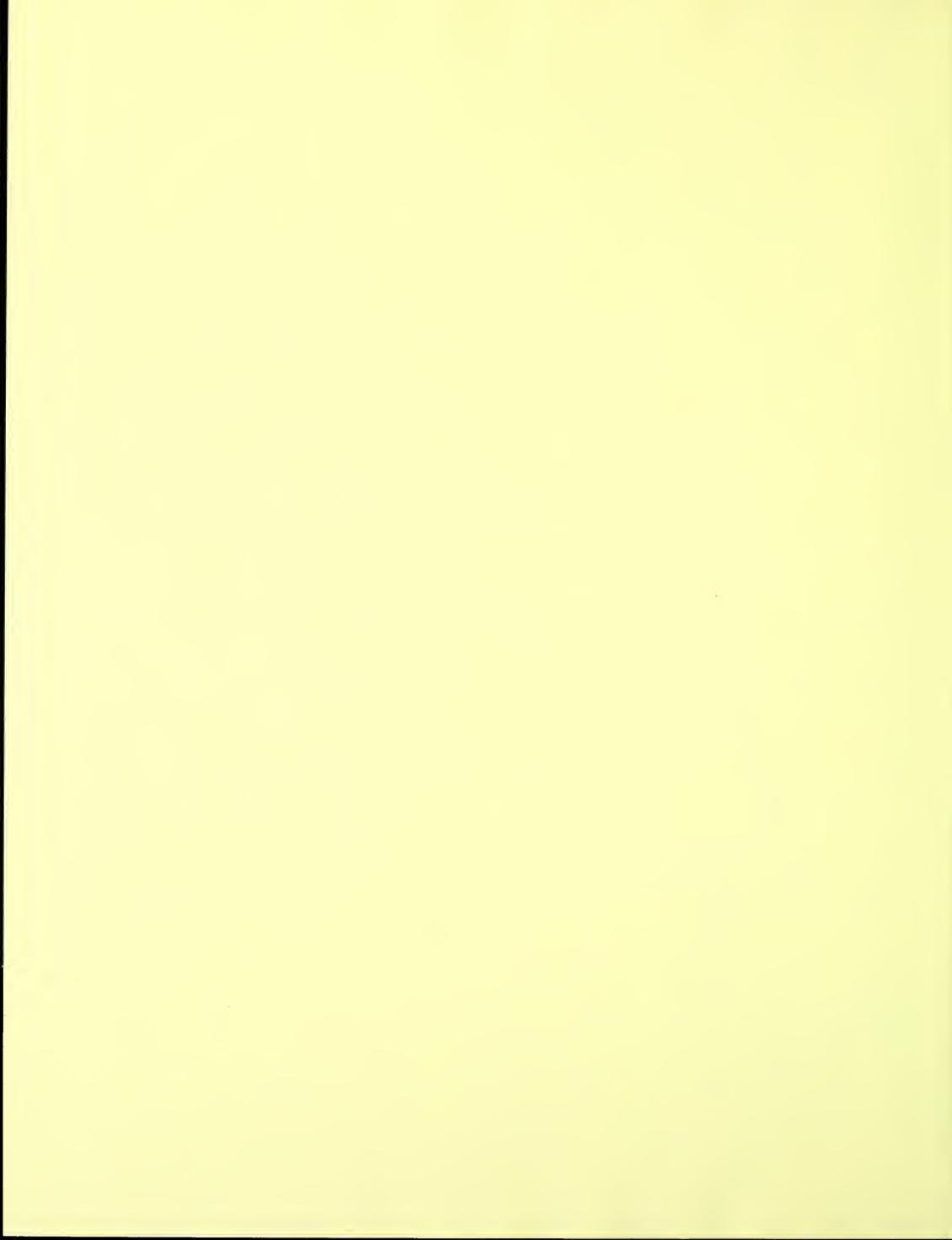
Please check one: Bearded Unbearded

NAME _____

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

**NOTES OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTESTANT WANTS
TO INCLUDE**



LINCOLN LOOK-A-LIKE CONTEST

JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET

RATE EACH CONTESTANT BETWEEN 1-5 WITH A ONE (1) BEING THE HIGHEST RATING

1 - Excellent	2 - Above Average	3 - Average	4 - Fair	5 - Poor
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Judge



HAROLD HOLZER

31 FULTON AVENUE
RYE, NEW YORK 10580-2515

May 6, 2008

Hon. Robert M. Esbach
Mayor
City of Ottawa
301 West Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Mayor Esbach:

As a historian of Civil War-era iconography and material culture who has long studied the paintings, photographs, prints, and sculpture of Abraham Lincoln, I wanted to tell you how impressed I have been with Ottawa's plans to erect a bronze statue in memory of the first Lincoln-Douglas debate.

The photographs I have seen to date of Rebecca Childers Caleel's heroic sculptures-in-progress reflect an admirable fidelity to the historical significance of the occasion they represent, and a sensitive understanding of the men who set the prairies "on fire" at that first of their seven historic "joint meetings." No two politicians of their age were more strikingly different than Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas -- in both appearance and style -- and Ms. Caleel has astutely captured these larger-than-life individuals as they appeared in Ottawa, at the moment they began their most memorable confrontation.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to see the statues when they are unveiled this September, and again express to you my appreciation for the contribution Ottawa is making to illuminate one of the most important events in American political history.

Sincerely,



HAROLD HOLZER





Two Lincoln sculptures in the works

Presidential library, New Salem planned locations for artwork

By DOUG POKORSKI

STAFF WRITER

As if the image of Abraham Lincoln didn't already appear pretty much everywhere in central Illinois, the Springfield area is set to get two new major Lincoln sculptures within the next couple of years.

Fund raising is well under way for a life-size statue of Lincoln as a surveyor, to be placed at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site. And a wall-mounted, bas-relief piece featuring Lincoln and one of his sons has been commissioned for an outside wall at the library part of the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

next page

Plans call for the Lincoln surveyor statue to be unveiled at New Salem in the early fall of 2003, according to Bob Church, executive director of the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association, which is sponsoring the project.

"This is something I've always wanted to do," Church said of the project. "The fall of 2003 coincides with the 75th anniversary of the (IPLSA) charter."

Lincoln worked as a surveyor during the years he lived in New Salem, before he decided to take up the practice of law, and at one time was the deputy surveyor for Sangamon County. It's a period of his life that often is overlooked, and Church said the statue is a way to draw greater attention to it.

The statue will depict a 25-year-old, 6-foot 4-inch Lincoln dressed in work clothes and conducting a land survey. The statue is based on a pen-and-ink drawing by the late Lloyd Ostendorf, a noted Lincoln artist.

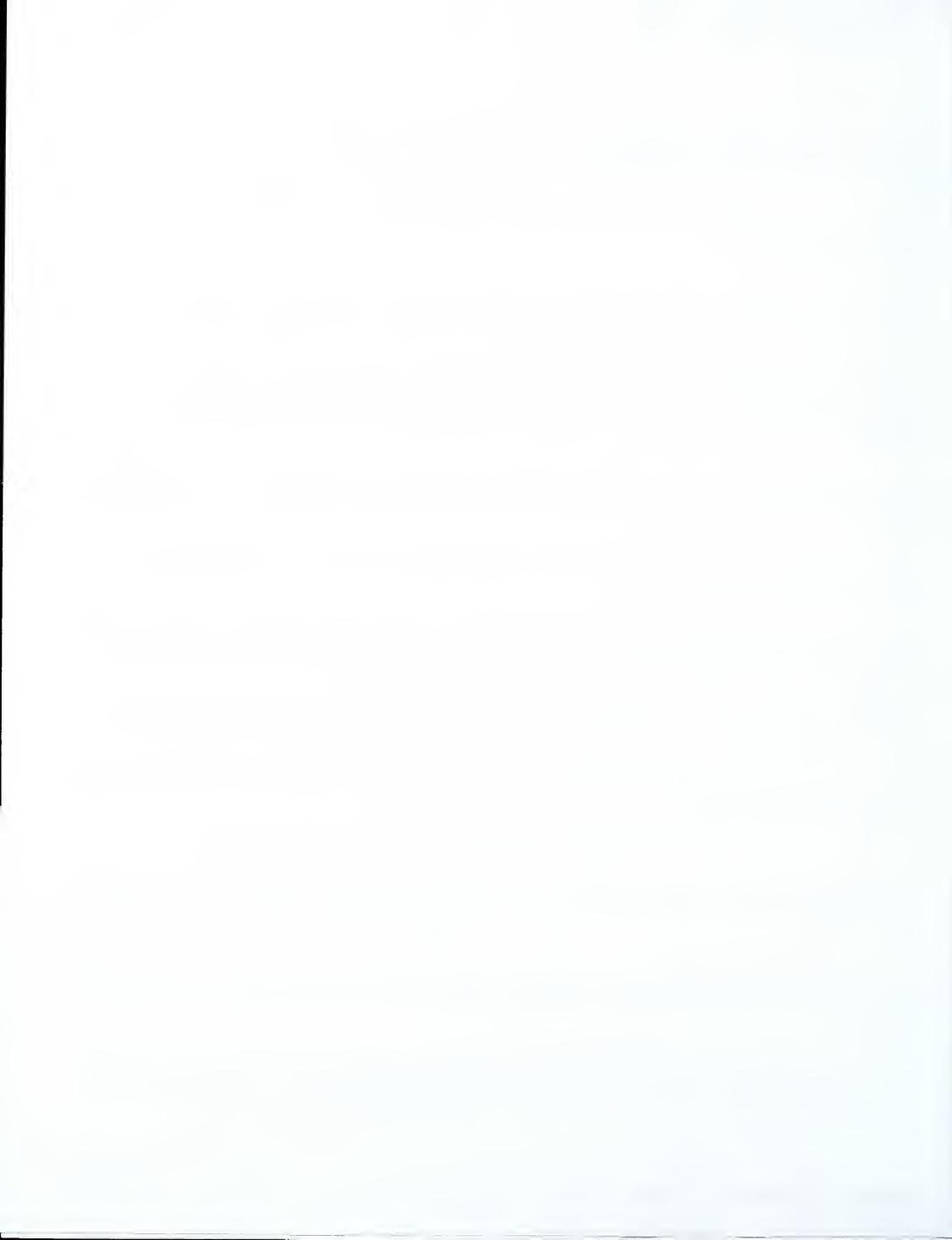
Ostendorf's drawing has been adapted into the design for a statue by Decatur sculptor John McClarey, who has done numerous Lincoln statues.

"I've done so many, I can do them in my sleep," McClarey once said of his Lincoln IMAGES.

Church and the IPLSA plan to raise \$130,000 to have the life-size version cast. That price includes the cost of a second, identical sculpture, which will be donated to the Michigan Museum of Surveying in Lansing, Church said.

Fund-raising began in late February, he said, and several pledges already have been made. Church said he hopes to have financial support from surveyors and surveyors' organizations from all 50 states before the project is completed.

Individuals or organizations that donate \$3,000 or more will receive a 12-inch bronze facsimile of the Lincoln Surveyor statue, a signed and numbered copy of the Ostendorf drawing and a copy of the newly reissued book "A. Lincoln with Compass and Chain," by Adin Baber. They also will have their names inscribed on the base of the statue.



The finished statue will be placed outside the New Salem visitors' center on the east side of the entrance. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, which operates New Salem, will maintain the statue once it is in place, according to agency spokesman Dave Blanchette.

Donations to the project can be sent to the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association, 203 S. Walnut St., Rochester, IL 62563.

The second new Lincoln sculpture on the drawing board is a 7 1/2-foot-high, bas-relief image that will be mounted on the exterior of the new Lincoln Presidential Library.

 Oak Brook sculptor Rebecca Childers Caleel has been commissioned by the state Capital Development Board, which is overseeing work on the library/museum project, to do the piece.

Caleel said the work will feature a larger-than-life image of Lincoln. Because a final design for the piece has not been accepted, details of the work still are vague, but Caleel said she hopes it will picture Lincoln and one of his three sons.

Caleel is a widely known sculptor whose works encompass a wide range of subjects. She recently designed an 11-foot-tall statue of the Lincoln-Douglas debate that was held in Ottawa in 1858 on commission from the city of Ottawa. That project is being cast.

Caleel declined to say how much she will be paid for the piece in Springfield, and a final contract has not yet been signed.

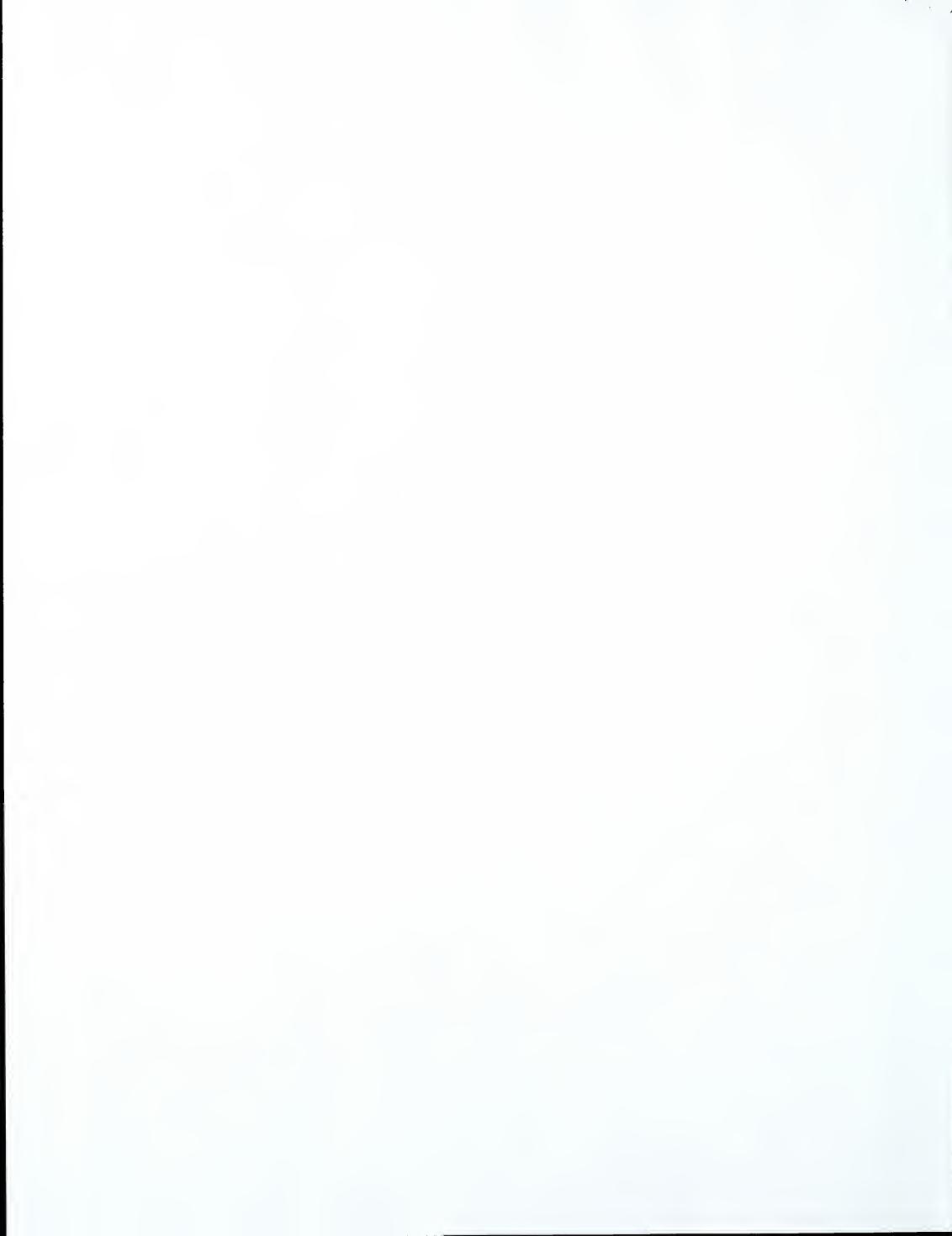
She said no timetable has been set for the project, either, but she expects it to be completed within a year or two.

CDB spokeswoman Mia Jazo Harris said the sculpture for the \$115 million library will be paid for out of a routine funding mechanism for state construction projects. Under state law, one-half percent of the budget for each public building project is set aside to purchase artwork for the building.

Doug Pokorski can be reached at 788-1539 or doug.pokorski@sj-r.com.

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